

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08741 280951Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 107869

R 280853Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1811

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL UER SEOUL 8741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

REF: SEOUL 8694

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIAL REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S DECEMBER 26 POLITICAL SPEECH WAS FAVORABLE, BUT WITH RESERVATIONS. LEADER OF SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT DESIST. JOURNALISTS HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY TAKE PRIMIN'S WARNINGS ABOUT OVERSTEPPING LIMITS OF FREEDOM SERIOUSLY.

2. ALL NEWSPAPERS EXCEPT TONGA-ILBO COMMENTED EDITORIALY, GENERALLY APPROVING PRIMIN'S ATTEMPT TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

BUT EXPRESSING WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEW PROMISES. WHILE ENDORSING PRIMIN'S EFFORT TO OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH PUBWYC, EDITORIALS DISAGREED WITH SOME SPECIFIC POINTS IN HIS SPEECH. CHUNGANG ILBO FOR EXAMPLE SAID PEOPLE WERE UNLIKELY TO BE MOVED BY YET ANOTHER WARNING ABOUT COMMUNIST THREAT. SINA ILBO SAID THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING A DIALOGUE WITH THOSE WHO THINK ALIKE, BUT THAT DIALOGUE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY. GOVERNMENT-OWNED SEOUL SINMUN AGREED WITH PRIMIN'S

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 08741 280951Z

ADMISSION THAT GOVERNMENT HAD MADE MISTAKES IN THE PAST AND

PROCEEDED TO LIST SOME: ALLOWING GAP TO WIDEN BETWEEN RICH AND POOR; PRESSING POOR TO SAVE CAPITAL; MAKING EXAGGERATED CLAIMS ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS; AND ALLOWING DEALERS IN SCARCE ITEMS TO PROFITEER.

3. OPPOSITION POLITICIANS HAVE ADDED LITTLE BY WAY OF REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH BEYOND THE INITIAL COMMENTS OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) AND DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY (DUP) SPOKESMEN (REFTEL). NDP VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SUNG, COMMENTING IN SAME VEIN AS PARTY SPOKESMAN, SAID THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT AFICH PRIMIN SOUGHT SHOULD NOT BE A ONE-WAY STREET. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN YI TAEK-DON, A FORMER KIM TAE-CHUNG BACKER, CALLED SPEECH "DISAPPOINTING". STRONGEST REACTION WAS FROM NDP NEW NON-MAINSTREAM FACTION LEADER KIM YONG-SAM. KIM CALLED SPEECH "HALF A THREAT AND HALF AN APPEAL" AND DECLARED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD NEVER RECOVER POPULAR CONFIDENCE EXCEPT BY AMENDING CONSTITUTION TO RESTORE RIGHT OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

5. COMMENTING TO USIS OFFICERS ON PRIMIN'S SPEECH, JOURNALISTS INDICATED THEY SAW IN IT A CLEAR WARNING ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF OVERSTEPPING LIMITS ON FREE SPEECH IMPOSED BY "SELF" 43 54-8,5". THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD ACT GINGERLY IN EXPLORING THESE LIMITS AND THEY BELCFVED PRIMIN MEANT WHAT HE SAID IN STATING CHALLENGE TO FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT NOT TO BE TOLERATED.

6. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT PRIMIN'S SPEECH HAS HAD A PUBLIC IMPACT ON DELINEATING EXTENT GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT POLITICAL DEBATE. WHILE NOT EXPECTING MORE EXTREME CRITICS TO BACK DOWN IN FACE OF PRIMIN'S WARNING, GOVERNMENT HOPEFUL THAT SPEECH WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT APPEAL TO ISOLATE CRITICS AND INDUCE A GENERAL CAUTION ABOUT PRESSING FOR POLITICAL NMANGE. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO OBVIOUSLY LAID GROUND FOR DIRECT ACTION AGAINST ITS ACTIVIST CRITICS IF IT FEELS NEED. AT SAME TIME PRIMIN SPEECH WTILL PRESERVES GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO MODERATION ON ITS OWN TERMS.  
UNDERHILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRIME MINISTER, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SEOUL08741  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973123/aaaaaboj.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SEOUL 8694  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH  
**TAGS:** PINT, KS, (KIM CHONG-PIL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005